

Abstract of the Disclosure

The time required to transcode an encoded image signal to an image signal encoded by a different encoding method is reduced.

Disclosed herein is a transcoder comprising: a picture selector 4 which extracts specific types of pictures (I- and P- pictures) from a first image signal (MPEG2 stream) and generates a subset of the first image signal; a first decoder 5 which decodes the subset image signal; and a first encoder 7 which encodes the decoded image signal to a second image signal (MPEG4 stream). The picture selector 4 uses the extracted pictures to generate the subset image signal with a reduced effective length.